



## PERSIMMON CARE

Persimmons perform best in well-drained soil and with full sun exposure. Fertilize with nitrogen once a year in early spring or try adding 5 to 10 pounds of compost per tree in late winter. Water no more than once every two weeks during spring and summer. Prune to shape when dormant. The fruit is eaten fresh off the tree beginning in the fall.

### Planting

Persimmons will tolerate some shade in hot inland areas. In cooler areas, full sun and wind protection are important. Persimmons prefer deep loamy soils, but will tolerate a range of conditions, provided soil salts are low. The preferred soil pH for persimmons is between 6.5 and 7.5.

### Watering

Persimmon trees produce larger and better fruit when watered regularly, ideally receiving 36-48" per year. They will drop leaves and fruit in extreme drought conditions, but can withstand shorter drought periods. In hot areas it may be necessary to water 2-3 times a week, depending on the soils.

### Pruning

Persimmons can be grown as specimen plants, pruned heavily to create a low hedge, or used to create a privacy screen. Persimmons can even be trained as espaliers if cut back to about ½ the original height at planting.

Because fruit is borne on branch tips, it is best to prune selectively and thoroughly in the first few years so the tree will develop balanced structure and strong branches for fruit. Regular maintenance pruning involves heading some branches and removing others, usually resulting in a general "Open Vase" shape.

## **Fertilizing**

Since excess N can cause fruit drop, persimmon trees should be minimally fertilized. When needed trees may benefit from a 10:10:10 fertilizer applied evenly in late winter or early spring.

## **PERSIMMON VARIETIES**

**FUYU PERSIMMON - JIRO** ("Apple Persimmon") -- Medium size, flat shape, still hard when ripe, non-astringent. Cool or hot climate. Hardy, attractive tree, practically pest free. Fall harvest, great for eating right from the tree or as a unique addition to salads. 200 hours. Self-fruitful.

**HACHIYA PERSIMMON** Large, deep orange-red, acorn-shaped. Hot summer required to mature the fruit. Sweet, flavorful, astringent till soft-ripe. Mature fruit can be frozen and thawed for use in baking. A Productive and very ornamental tree. 200 hours. Self-fruitful.

### **COFFEECAKE™ PERSIMMON (Nishimura Wase)**

Anxious Fuyu lovers, who await the fall harvest with great anticipation can now experience an expanded season of delectable persimmon flavors. Coffee Cake persimmon, pollinated by Fuyu and ripening a month earlier, has a unique spicy-sweet cinnamon flavor.